

Message Text

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42

ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 A-01 PER-01 MMS-03 ABF-01 SY-04

SS-20 FSE-00 SP-03 /040 W
----- 113768

R 301450Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL KADUNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0671
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSULATE IBADAN

UNCLAS KADUNA 271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: NIV ISSUANCE PROCESS

REF: STATE 021246

1. CONSULATE THROUGH COMPLETE REORGANIZATION OF CONSULAR SECTION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN AUGUST 1973 ALREADY CONFORMING TO MANY GUIDELINES OUTLINED REFTEL. POST HAS FOR SOME TIME LIMITED HOURS FOR VISAS FROM 8:00 - 12:30 DAILY AND REMAINED OPEN ALL DAY FOR PASSPORT/CITIZEN

SHIP WORK. THIS PROCEDURE HAS CERTAINLY INCREASED EFFICIENCY OF VISA OPERATION AND ALLOWED MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND

FILES WITHOUT REQUIRING OVERTIME. BECAUSE OF HUGE GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSE THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT AND UNRELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS, WE SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO BEING AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE WORKING DAY TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO SOME 1200 AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT HERE. PART OF REORGANIZATION INCLUDED RELOCATION VISA OFFICES WHICH ALLOWS FOR BETTER CONTROL OF APPLICANTS, LESS CONGESTION, GREATER EFFICIENCY AND CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT APPEARANCE OF ENVIRONS.

2. RE PARA C(2) REFTEL, INTERVIEW BY AN AMERICAN OFFICER IS DONE AS FINAL STEP SINCE APPLICANTS SELDOM HAVE ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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ON FIRST - OFTEN THE FIRST SEVERAL - VISIT(S) TO THE CONSULATE.

WE CONSIDER IT MORE EXPEDIENT TO HAVE APPLICANT INITIALLY SEE CONSULAR ASSISTANT WHO CHECKS ANY NEW DOCUMENTS, REMOVES ANY RELATED MATERIAL FROM THE FILES AND THEN TURNS APPLICANT AND FILE TO CONSULAR OFFICER. ON BASIS OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AND FACTS REVEALED FROM THE PERSONAL INTERVIEW, CONSULAR OFFICER EITHER ISSUES OR REFUSES VISA ON THE SPOT.

3. STAFFING A) IN PAST YEAR, TWO INCUMBENTS OF LOCAL CONSULAR ASSISTANT POSITION HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FOR PRACTICING EXTORTION. SINCE LAST INCIDENT, CONSULATE HAS FILLED POSITION WITH CONTRACT RESIDENT DEPENDENT AMERICAN CARRIED ON PETTY CASH BASIS. IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS SUSCEPTIBILITY TO BRIBERY OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND ADVERSE PUBLIC RELATIONS THAT RESULT FROM SUCH ACTIVITY, EMBASSY LAGOS, AT CONSULATE'S REQUEST, HAS RECOMMENDED POSITION BE REDESIGNATED FOR DEPENDENT RESIDENT AMERICAN (SEE LAGOS TELEGRAM 2680). TO EVEN HOPE TO FIND QUALIFIED, HONEST LOCAL EMPLOYEE TO FILL THIS POSITION, SALARY WOULD HAVE TO BE SO ATTRACTIVE THAT EMPLOYMENT OF AMERICANS, AS SUGGESTED PARA D(3) REFTEL, BECOMES COST EFFECTIVE. FOR ABOVE REASONS, WE STRONGLY URGE FAVORABLE ACTION THIS RECOMMENDATION. FROM PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING DEPENDENTS THAT HAVE PREVIOUS CLERICAL OR OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO HANDLE RESPONSIBILITIES OF POSITION. EN-GAGING ANOTHER LOCAL EMPLOYEE NOT ONLY RISKS REPEATED MALFEASANCE BUT NECESSARILY PLACES A HEAVIER WORKLOAD ON THE CONSULAR OFFICER WHO ALSO HAS ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

B) IN SELECTING A CANDIDATE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE/CONSULAR OFFICER POSITION, EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON PREVIOUS CONSULAR EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN ADMIN. THE WORKLOAD OF THE POSITION HAS SHIFTED SO THAT CONSULAR ACTIVITIES NOW COMMAND MORE TIME THAN ADMINISTRATION. BY DESIGNATING OTHER CONSULATE OFFICERS TO PERFORM CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS, POST HAS MANAGED TO COPE WITH SITUATION. FUTURE INCREASES IN CONSULAR WORKLOAD, HOWEVER, MAY REQUIRE A FULL TIME CONSULAR OFFICER. LIKELIHOOD THIS NECESSITY DEVELOPING WOULD BE REDUCED BY APPROVAL FOR U.S. DEPENDENT TO FILL CONSULAR ASSISTANT SLOT AS SUGGESTED ABOVE.

TRAIL

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